# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/995,238 | 11/28/2001 | Gerry Kovan | CA920000055US1 | 9662 |

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| HUYNH, THU V |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2178 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Office Action Summary** | 09/995,238 | KOVAN ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Thu V Huynh | 2178 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _29 November 2001_.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**     2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-57_ is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-57_ is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some *  c) ☐ None of:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
       application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

1.      This action is responsive to communications: application filed on 11/28/2001, which has

the benefit of foreign application filed on 11/30/2000.

2.      Claims 1-57 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 16, 26, 41, and 53 are independent claims.


### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3.      The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
manner in which the invention was made.

(b) This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35
U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the
time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the
obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly
owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35
U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).


4.      **Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17, 19-22, 24-30, 32-36, 38-43, 45-47, 49-57 are rejected under**

**35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Getchius et al., US 6496,843 B1, filed 03/1999**

**in view of Bauer et al., US 5,884,325, filed 10/1996.**

**Regarding independent claim 1**, Getchius teaches the steps of:

-   storing a first plurality of values in at least one first object, said first plurality of

    values comprising initial values of a plurality of data fields in a document (Getchius,

    col.5, lines 15-36; col.10, lines 14-40; col.39, lines 1-10; col.44, lines 35-53; and

    corresponding figures; user enters business information in online form (fig.22) and

    storing entered values of fields an existing database and existing database copy);

- storing a second plurality of values in at least one second object, said second plurality of values being identical to said first plurality of values (Getchius, col.44, lines 35-53; storing values of fields in an updated database copy);

- receiving modifications from a user to said data fields and storing said modifications in said at least one second object as current values (Getchius, col.10, lines 33-41; col.44, lines 35-53; and corresponding figures; changing values of the data fields and storing said changed values as current values on an updated database copy);

- comparing said first and second plurality of values to determine which data fields have initial values different from their current values (Getchius, col.44, lines 8-53; comparing the values in existing database copy and updated database copy to determine the different between two data sets); and

- creating a plurality of records identifying all data fields having initial values different from their current values as determined in step comparing (Getchius, col.44, lines 8-34 and col.56, lines 19 – col.57, line 5; creating update records based on the resulting of difference between the two data sets).

However Getchius does not explicitly disclose the step of transmitting said plurality of records to a server, said plurality of records for use in updating data in a data storage device.

Bauer teaches updates performed by either client or servers are propagated to other side when a connection is established (Bauer, abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to have combined Bauer's teaching into Getchius to transmitting said plurality of records to a server for updating, since information is updated from either client or server.

**Regarding dependent claim 2**, which is dependent on claim 1, Getchius teaches wherein said document is an PHTML document containing an HTML form (Getchius, col.15, line 45 – col.16, line 3).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Getchius' PHTML document to include an HTML document, since PHTML files are HTML instructions with embedded processing instructions.

**Regarding dependent claim 3**, which is dependent on claim 2, Getchius teaches wherein step storing a first plurality of values is performed when said HTML form is loaded into a web browser (Getchius, col.5, lines 15-36; col.10, lines 14-40; col.39, lines 1-10; col.44, lines 35-53; col.15, line 45 – col.16, line 3; HTML form must be loaded into a web browser for the user enters business information in online form (fig.22) and storing entered values of fields an existing database and existing database copy).

**Regarding dependent claim 4**, which is dependent on claim 3, Getchius teaches wherein the step comparing is performed after said modifications have been completed by said user (Getchius, col.10, lines 33-41 and col.44, lines 8-53).

**Regarding dependent claim 5**, which is dependent on claim 4, Getchius teaches wherein said plurality of records comprise a plurality of data field identifiers, and wherein each of said

data field identifiers one of said plurality of data fields in said document (Getchius, col.44, lines

8-53).


**Regarding dependent claim 7**, which is dependent on claim 1, Getchius teaches wherein

said document comprise a notebook (Getchius, col.5, lines 15-37 and fig.3).


**Regarding dependent claim 8**, which is dependent on claim 7, Getchius teaches wherein

said notebook comprises at least one panel (Getchius, col.5, lines 15-37 and fig.3).


**Regarding dependent claim 9**, which is dependent on claim 8, Getchius teaches wherein

step storing a first plurality of values is performed when said notebook is opened (Getchius,

col.5, lines 15-36; col.10, lines 14-40; col.39, lines 1-10; col.44, lines 35-53; col.15, line 45 –

col.16, line 3; HTML form must be loaded into a web browser for the user enters business

information in online form (fig.22) and storing entered values of fields an existing database

and/or existing database copy when the user presses the "submit information" button (fig.22)).


**Regarding dependent claim 10**, which is dependent on claim 9, Getchius teaches

wherein step comparison is performed on data in a panel of said at least one panel after said

modifications have been completed by said user (Getchius, col.10, lines 33-41 and col.44, lines

8-53).

**Regarding dependent claim 11**, which is dependent on claim 10, Getchius teaches

wherein step creating is performed for said panel of said at least one panel, wherein said plurality

of records created comprise a plurality of data field identifiers, and wherein each of said data

field identifiers one of said plurality of data fields in said panel (Getchius, col.44, lines 8-53).

**Regarding dependent claim 13**, which is dependent on claim 12, Getchius teaches

wherein step comparing, creating and transmitting are repeated for each panel in a notebook

(Getchius, col.5, lines 15-36; col.10, lines 14-40; col.39, lines 1-10; col.44, lines 35-53; col.15,

line 45 – col.16, line 3; and col.56, lines 19 – col.57, line 5; to update information whenever a

user requests/submits changed information, the step of comparing, creating and transmitting are

repeated for the panel in the notebook, wherein the notebook has at least one panel).

**Regarding dependent claim 14**, which is dependent on claim 13, Getchius teaches

wherein said plurality of records are used to determine at least one of the following whether a

data field has an initial value different from its current value; whether a panel comprises a data

field having an initial value different from its current value; whether said notebook comprises a

panel which comprises a data field having an initial value different from it current value

(Getchius, col.44, lines 8-53).

**Regarding dependent claim 15**, which is dependent on claim 1, Getchius teaches

wherein said document comprises a hierarchy of documents, and wherein said plurality of

records are used to determine whether a data field having an initial value different from its

current value exists at a specified level of said hierarchy of documents (Getchius, figure 7;
col.15, line 45 – col.16, line 3; col.44, lines 8-34 and col.56, lines 19 – col.57, line 5).

**Claims 16-25** for a system of presenting the method of claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-12, 14-15,
respectively, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Claims 26-40** are for a computer readable medium presenting the method of claims 1-
15, respectively, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Claims 41-50** are for a software product performing the method of claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-
12, 14-15, respectively, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Claims 51-52** are for a computer program performing the method of claim 1, and are
rejected under the same rationale.

**Claims 53-57** are for a computer program product performing the method of claim 1, and
are rejected under the same rationale. Getchius teaches computer program product for displaying
data in a database comprising machine executable code (Getchius, claim 29) to perform the
method of claim 1 as explained above. Getchiu teaches a system for performing online data
queries is a distributed computer system, wherein a update techniques are used to updated a
plurality of server nodes (Getchiu, abstract). Therefore, the limitation of "a computer readable
signal-bearing medium", " a recordable data storage medium", such as a hard drive of the

computer, "said medium is a modulated carrier signal", "said signal is a transmission over a

network" and "said network is the Internet" must be inherently included to perform the updating

information that is provide from a user (client) through online form to a server.


5.      **Claims 6, 12, 18, 23, 31, 37, 44, and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

**unpatentable over Getchius in view of Bauer as disclosed above, and further in view of**

**Moore et al., US 6,253,244 B1, filed 10/1998.**

**Regarding dependent claim 6**, which is dependent on claim 5, Getchius does not

explicitly disclose a Boolean value assigned to each of said data field identifiers to indicate

whether said data field has an initial value different from it current value as determined in step

comparison.

Moore teaches a Boolean value assigned to each of said data field identifiers to indicate

whether said data field has updated (Moore, page 4, paragraph 50 and 52).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified Moore's using Boolean into Getchius to mark data field

identifiers that need to be update, since this would have facilitated the updating of values of the

data fields that need to be changed.


**Regarding dependent claim 12**, which is dependent on claim 11, Getchius does not

explicitly disclose wherein said plurality of records further comprise a Boolean value assigned to

each of said data field identifier to indicate whether said data field has an initial different from its

current value as determined in step comparing.

Moore teaches a Boolean value assigned to each of said data field identifiers to indicate whether said data field has updated (Moore, page 4, paragraph 50 and 52).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Moore's using Boolean into Getchius to mark data field identifiers that need to be update, since this would have facilitated the updating of values of the data fields that need to be changed.

**Claims 18 and 23** are for a system of presenting the method of claims 6 and 12 respectively, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Claims 31 and 37** are for a computer readable medium presenting the method of claims 6 and 12, respectively, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

**Claims 44 and 48** are for a software product performing the method of claims 6 and 12, respectively, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

## *Conclusion*

6.      The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kennedy et al, US 6,651,217 B1, filed 1999, teaches method for populating forms with previously used data values.

Ng, US 6,405,175 B1, filed 1999, teaches shopping scouts web site for rewarding customer referrals on product and price information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu V Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 273-4126. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S Hong can be reached on (571) 273-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVH
October 18, 2004

STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER